

AMERICAN DRAGON
"Professor Rotwood's Thesis"
(7W14-109)

TEASER

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - SECLUDED ALLEY - NIGHT

LEPRECHAUN MCBREEN exits a small hidden door with A POT OF GOLD COINS under his arm. We hear IRISH MUSIC as he turns back to tip his hat.

1 MCBREEN
A good night to you all! Next
time, the corn beef's on me, don't
ya know?...

He starts away when he stops, spotting--

A PRETTY LADY LEPRECHAUN - standing at the end of the alley.

She waves mechanically. McBreen strolls up, bowing.

2 MCBREEN (CONT'D)
Top o' the evenin' to ye, lassie.
What might yer name be?

The Lady Leprechaun's arm suddenly falls off, revealing wires and circuits. Her eyes spin around.

3 LADY LEPRECHAUN
Malfunction. Malfunction.

4 MCBREEN
Malfunction? Would that be short
for 'Mallory' then?

The Lady Leprechaun SPARKS and short-circuits.

5 MCBREEN (CONT'D)
Is it just me, or are ye sensing
sparks between us? Whaddya think?

6 HUNTSMAN (O.S.)
I think you've fallen for our
hunting decoy...

HUNTSMAN and THORN drop down behind McBreen, trapping him.

7 HUNTSMAN (CONT'D)
...We use it to lure out our prey.
And, despite the malfunction, it
appears to have worked.

8 THORN
Now hand over the gold, Leprechaun.

Thorn starts forward when a WHOOSH of fire throws her back.

9 HUNTSMAN/THORN
McBreen turns as Jake (dragoned up)
lands next to him.

10 JAKE
Sorry, Thorn. But gold-digging
definitely drops you a few points
on the 'hot' meter.

The Huntsman and Thorn recover, BLASTING with their staffs.

11 THORN
You're the one about to be dropped,
dragon boy!

Jake twirls his claws, deflecting the BLASTS. McBreen grabs
the decoy and flees to safety.

Thorn takes the staff and launches herself at Jake, who takes
to the air.

WIDE ON ALLEY - Thorn uses the staff like a supercharged pole
vault, launching herself up a fire escape and up above--

 THE ROOFTOPS
Jake and Thorn exchange aerial kung
fu blows.

12 JAKE/THORN

EXT. NEW YORK BROWNSTONE - LATE NIGHT

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD is covered in cumbersome high-tech night
vision equipment as he clumsily scales a first story fire
escape, speaking into a MINIATURE TAPE RECORDER.

13 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Scientific log: night seven hundred
and thirty-nine of urban nocturnal
surveillance...still no proof of
the existence of --!

JAKE AND THORN - sail over the roof above him, pausing in mid
air to continue to fight.

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - raises his CAMERA.

14 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
At last. After all these years..

15 POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
Alright, peeper. Show's over.

Two UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS yank Rotwood down the fire
escape, away from the window he was standing in front of.
A single FLASH goes off on his camera.

The Officers drag him towards a waiting PATROL CAR as a
SINGLE POLAROID PHOTO scrolls out of his camera.

16 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
No! Wait! I have just captured a
magical creature on film! I am
about to become the most respected
scientist in the world!

17 POLICE OFFICER #2
Sure you are, pal.

18 POLICE OFFICER #1
Tell you what--I'll call ahead and
reserve our special 'respected
scientists' holding cell.

19 POLICE OFFICER #2
Watch the head now.

Rotwood holds up the photo in triumph as they SLAM the car
door on his arm.

SMASH TO:

OPENING TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. MYTHOLOGY CLASS - DAY

Professor Rotwood paces through his class, handing out a FLYER to his students.

20 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Feast your eye balls on my latest
scientific discovery...

Jake, TRIXIE, and SPUD take the sheet. It's a horribly unfocused photo of Dragon Jake from the previous night. Trixie studies the photograph.

21 TRIXIE
Uh, Mister Rot--?

22 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD

PROFESSOR!

23 TRIXIE
Yeah. Professor. I'm looking at
your flyer and the only thing my
eyeballs are feasting on is a big
red and yellow blob.

Spud turns his photo upside down.

24 SPUD
It looks kind of like my Mom's
lasagna. My Mom's lasagna flying
and doing kung fu.

25 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Nein! This is not any pasta! It
is a dragon! Or a sphinx. Or a
griffin, maybe. And I am the first
to capture one on film. What ever
it is.

Trixie and the rest of the class exchange skeptical glances.

26 TRIXIE
But Mister Rotwood, that's all
fairy tale stuff.

27 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Oh, of course. They are fairy
tales! Let me explain to you these
three things. Number one--there is
a magical creature loose in New
York City. Number two...

Rotwood holds up the flyer. A caption beneath the photo
reads 'REWARD--EVIDENCE OF DRAGON: \$500.'

28 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
...I am offering a five hundred
dollar reward for physical evidence
of said creature. And number
three, and perhaps most important--

IT IS PROFESSOR ROTWOOD!

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Trixie, Spud, and most of the students shake their heads as
they exit Rotwood's class. Trixie crumples up her flyer,
tossing it into her bag.

29 TRIXIE
Rotwood is way trippin'.

Distracted, Jake folds up the reward flyer and slips it into
his back pocket.

30 JAKE
What? Oh, yeah. Totally.

Spud continues to study his flyer, shaking his head.

31 SPUD
I wonder if my Mom even knows that
her lasagna escaped...?

CUT TO:

INT. TRIXIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jake, Trixie, and Spud sit in front of the TV furiously
manipulating VIDEO GAME CONTROLLERS.

32 JAKE
The clocks running down. We need a
touchdown to win it.

The voice of Trixie's GRANDMOTHER shouts in from O.S.

33 TRIxie'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Trixie? You and your friends
hungry? You want something to eat?

34 TRIxie
No thanks! We're trying to make a
fourth quarter comeback in here!

TRIXIE'S MOM enters the living room. She is dressed in a
COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT UNIFORM and pulls a SMALL OVERNIGHT
BAG behind her.

35 TRIxie'S MOM
Trixie, Captain Biros called in
sick so I'm flying the entire
London to Tokyo to L.A. run. I
won't be back until Thursday.

Trixie, Jake, and Spud don't look up from the screen.

36 TRIxie
Yeah. O.k., Mom.

37 JAKE
Bye, Mrs. Carter.

38 SPUD
Fly safe. Watch out for flying
lasagna up there, ya hear?

Trixie's Mom quickly MISTS a POTTED PLANT and then walks over
to the mantle and dusts off A BEAUTIFUL CRYSTAL VASE. She
then leans down and kisses Trixie on the cheek.

39 TRIxie'S MOM
Behave yourself. Write to your
Dad. And listen to your
Grandmother. Promise?

40 TRIxie
I promise. Love you, Mom.

41 TRIxie'S MOM
Love you, too. 'Bye kids.

She exits. They turn their attention back to the game.

42 TRIXIE'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Trixie? Wha-where you going? You
just leave?

43 TRIXIE
I'm right here, Gramma!

44 TRIXIE'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Oh. (a beat) You hungry? You and
your friends want some food?

45 TRIXIE
No thanks! (to Jake and Spud). O.k.
Only time for one more play. Jake,
run a deep post. Spud, pick up
that Red Dog blitz.

ON SCREEN - The virtual football teams line up. The ball is
hiked. A receiver breaks free.

Jake furiously hits buttons on his controller.

46 JAKE
I'm open! I'm open!

ON SCREEN - The ball sails into the receiver's hand. The
word 'TOUCHDOWN' flashes over the screen with elaborate
firework and confetti FX.

JAKE, SPUD, AND TRIXIE - toss their controllers and leap up.
Jake break dances. Spud spins his yo-yo around his head.

47 JAKE/TRIXIE/SPUD
Yeah! Yeah!/That's right!

48 SPUD
We're the champions of a world that
doesn't exist. Woo-heee!
(realizing) Unless...our world is
the one that doesn't exist and that
one's real! Whoahhhhh.

Trixie leaps up onto her sofa and begins an end zone dance.

49 TRIXIE
And the extra point is...

She kicks a cushion and it flies across the room, hitting--

THE CRYSTAL VASE - It teeters and topples off the mantle,
dropping towards the--

FLOOR - Jake, Spud, and Trixie and dive for it but it
to the ground.

50 TRIXIE (CONT'D)
No! No! Not Mom's Sitton crystal!

She desperately tries to gather the broken pieces.

51 TRIXIE'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Trixie? What you doin' in there?
What's that about the crystal?

Trixie frantically gathers up the pieces of the vase.

52 TRIXIE
Uh, nothing Gramma! It's cool! I
was just welcoming over my new
friend. Her name is 'Crystal.'

She elbows Spud.

53 SPUD
Ooof! What? Oh, right. (a bad
girl's voice) I'm Crystal. Nice
place you got here, Trixie. And
that Spud is one cool and hot-
ooof!

He's silenced by another Trixie elbow. There's a tense beat
and then:

54 TRIXIE'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Your friend Crystal want something
to eat?

CUT TO:

INT. TRIXIE'S ROOM - DAY

The pieces of the vase sit on Trixie's desk. Trixie, Spud,
and Jake just stare at them.

55 TRIXIE
My Mom is so going to freak. That
was an antique, one of a kind,
Sitton vase. My Dad gave it to her
on their first anniversary!

WHIP PAN to a PHOTO on Trixie's desk--TRIXIE'S MOM AND
TRIXIE'S DAD (both wearing generic Air Force uniforms). Her
Mom holds the vase, smiling. PAN back to Trixie and Jake.

56 SPUD (O.S.)
The vase wasn't one of a kind...

Reveal Spud examining a vase fragment.

57 SPUD (CONT'D)
According to this stamp, it was a
limited edition of one hundred
pieces, now let's go find another
one!

Determined, Spud marches into Trixie's closet and shuts the
door. After a beat:

58 SPUD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm lost.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSCALE ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

Jake, Trixie, and Spud peer through a glass case at an
identical CRYSTAL VASE.

59 ANTIQUA DEALER (O.S.)
You have exquisite taste...

An ANTIQUA DEALER takes the vase out of the case.

60 ANTIQUA DEALER (CONT'D)
Sitton crystal. 1912. Mint
condition.

61 TRIXIE
Wrap it up, Jack. I'll take it.

62 ANTIQUA DEALER
Very well. That will be six
hundred dollars, all wrapped up.

ON TRIXIE, JAKE, AND SPUD - Their jaws all drop.

63 TRIXIE
Did you say six honey?

64 SPUD
How much if we get it unwrapped?

CUT TO:

EXT. LOMBARDO'S PIZZA - DAY

Jake, Trixie, and Spud sit on the steps. Spud counts up a small pile of MONEY and LOOSE CHANGE in front of them:

65 SPUD
...Sixty-two, sixty-three. We've got sixteen dollars and sixty-three cents.

Trixie buries her head in her hands.

66 TRIXIE
I'm doomed! Doomed!

Spud leaps up.

67 SPUD
She's getting hysterical. Get a hold of yourself, woman!

Jake holds up his hands.

68 JAKE
Just chill, guys. The three of us are friends for life and friends for real. If we put our minds to it, there's nothing we can't do.

Trixie starts to nod. She gets to her feet, energized.

69 TRIXIE
Yeah. O.k. You're right. Let's do this!

INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC swells as we LAUNCH INTO--

A MONEY-MAKING MONTAGE

A series of quick vignettes over MUSIC:

- 1) Jake, Trixie, and Spud crack open cans of paint and begin painting the exterior of a HOUSE in Queens. Jake and Trixie suddenly realize they are painting the house two different colors.
- 2) A car stops at an intersection. Trixie leaps forward and begins washing the car's windshield with a newspaper. She pauses, starts reading an article, flips a page. The driver honks impatiently.
- 3) BACK TO THE HOUSE - Jake and Trixie are now on the same page, finishing a wall of the house in the same color. PAN OVER to reveal Spud has painted an entire wall with a mural of 'The Birth Of Venus.' (no visible nudity, of course).
- 4) Jake break-dances on a subway platform. Several commuters are about to cram money into his 'tip' jar when one of his spinning moves knocks them all to the ground. Jake spins into a subway. The doors shut. The subway leaves.
- 5) THE HOUSE - Jake and Trixie paint a wall with rollers. They are painting towards a door when it is opened by an elderly man. They paint over his face and shirt. Oops.
- 6) Spud sells a glass of lemonade at a old-fashioned lemonade stand. He celebrates by picking up the entire cooler of lemonade and dumping it over himself.
- 7) THE HOUSE - Jake, Trixie, and Spud stand, admiring their work. The house looks great. A Foreman suddenly walks up to them, screaming and pointing. PAN OVER to reveal a neighboring house, in need of a paint job. They painted the wrong house. They drop their equipment and run.

70 SPUD (V.O.)
Five hundred ninety-eight...Five
hundred ninety-nine and...

CUT TO:

EXT. LOMBARDO'S PIZZA - DAY

Jake, Trixie, and Spud sit on the steps. Spud counts up a small pile of MONEY and LOOSE CHANGE in front of them:

71 SPUD
...six hundred cents. That's six
dollars. We lost ten dollars and
sixty-three cents.

72 TRIXIE
I'm doomed! Doomed!

73 SPUD
She's losing it, again. Woman! Get
a grip!

Jake stands between them, pulling the flyer out of his back pocket. He begins scribbling math on the back with a PENCIL.

74 JAKE
It's just a setback. So we still
need...let's see...carry the one...

Jake stops, turning the flyer around. He sees the blurry photo of himself and the words 'REWARD--EVIDENCE OF DRAGON: \$500.' Jake leaps up, starting off down the street.

75 JAKE (CONT'D)
Listen, guys. I got an idea. Meet
me back here in a couple hours.

Jake leaps on his skateboard.

76 JAKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Dragon up!

CUT TO:

EXT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - ROOFTOP @ DAY

Jake TRANSFORMS into dragon form and begins striking a

variety of flexes and poses. There are a series of FLASHES.
Haley peers out from behind a DIGITAL CAMERA.

77 HALEY
(the fashion photographer)
That's right. Work it. Work it.
Now pout for me...

78 JAKE
Just take the pictures, Haley.

There's another FLASH as we--

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S ROOM - DAY

ON JAKE'S COMPUTER - The shots of him in dragon form are
lined up on the screen. We hear the of--

HIS PRINTER - Several COLORED PHOTOS scroll out. Jake scoops
them up. We hear the of a doorbell as we--

CUT TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT ԁ DAY

Jake stands before a garage door. He is the
doorbell when the door flies open and Rotwood pops out.

79 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
What? Who's there? Go away! (sees
Jake) Oh, it's you. What do you
want?

Jake holds up Rotwood's reward flyer.

80 JAKE
The dollars, yo.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT ԁ DAY

Rotwood leads Jake into his street level warehouse loft--an
open laboratory crammed with creepy Tim Burton-esque

equipment and mystic artifacts. A CHINESE DRAGON PARADE HEAD AND COSTUME hang above the door.

Jake glances over a row of glass jars filled with DEFORMED OBJECTS in formaldehyde. One of them suddenly moves. Jake leaps back.

81 JAKE
So, this is where you live...

Jake walks into the cluttered space, glancing around.

82 JAKE (CONT'D)
Uh, real nice crib you got here,
Mister--I mean, Professor Rotwood.

83 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Enough of the pleasant chitty-chat.
You have evidence for me, yes?

Jake hands Rotwood a LARGE ENVELOPE.

84 JAKE
Do I ever. Chick-a-chicka-Check it.

Rotwood opens the envelope and flips through the photos--a series of goofy close ups of Jake as a Dragon, smiling and mugging for the camera.

85 JAKE (CONT'D)
So, I'd like the reward in cash.
Bust out the Benjamins, the
Jacksons, the Hamiltons and--Hey!

Rotwood RIPS up the photos.

86 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Shame on you, Mister Jake Long!
These photographs are obviously a
ridiculous hoax.

Jake holds up Rotwood's flyer.

87 JAKE
Say wha-at? Those are way better
than that lasagna/vomit picture you
handed out in class!

88 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Exactly. These are too good. No
one could get this close to an
actual dragon, particularly an
amateur such as yourself. Now take
these away from my face!

CUT TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT Ð DAY

The garage door shut, leaving Jake standing outside.

89 JAKE
Aw, man.

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Jake sits on the side of the tub in full dragon form, talking
on the phone. He scrapes off a few dragon scales off his leg
and clips a couple of his claws, breaking the NAIL CLIPPERS.

90 JAKE
Trixie, you're going to sell your
what to science? No, just hang
tight, I'm totally on this...

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT Ð EVENING

The DRAGON SCALES and CLAW CLIPPINGS sit on a glass slide in
a microscope. PAN UP to reveal Professor Rotwood peering
down at them. Jake stands behind him.

91 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
(interested) Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.
(then) These are clearly fake.

92 JAKE
What? No! Those are genuine
dragon scales and claws. For real!

Rotwood holds up a claw.

93 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
You should know better than to try
fooling a trained mytho-biologist,
Mr. Long. Dragon claws glow in the
dark. Everyone knows this. And
their scales have the faint odor of
lavendar.

Jake throws up his hands.

94 JAKE
Lavender Glow in the dark? That's
ridiculous! They do not! You
wouldn't know a dragon if it took a
bite out of your butt!

95 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
You flaunt your ignorance, Mr.
Long. Dragons go for the throat
and have acute allergies to human
buttocks.

96 JAKE
What? Aw, forget you.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

Jake walks down the street, muttering to himself.

97 JAKE
Glow in the dark. Pfft.

98 LEPRECHAUN MCBREEN (O.S.)
Help! Help! Don't you know?

Jake ducks into an alley.

99 JAKE
Eye of the dragon.

His eyes TRANSFORM into dragon eyes. He looks up--

DRAGON POV - In cool infra-red, we ZOOM IN on an adjacent
rooftop where Thorn has cornered Leprechaun McBreen.

ON THE ROOF - Thorn levels her staff at McBreen.

100 THORN
So much for the luck of the Irish!

JAKE - reacts.

!

101 JAKE

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. NEW YORK ROOFTOP Ð DAY

RE-ESTABLISH - Thorn levels her staff at Leprechaun McBreen and , but her blast is deflected by a FIREBALL as--

JAKE - sails up onto the roof in dragon form, leveling Thorn with a karate kick. McBreen flees.

102 JAKE/THORN
Hi-ya!/Ooof!

Jake back flips, taking to the air. Thorn leaps to her feet, using her staff to pole vault after Jake out over--

THE ROOFTOPS
Jake and Thorn sail from roof to roof, trading a variety of cool kung fu blows.

103 JAKE
Don't you ever take a day off?

She swings her staff.

104 THORN
I've been dreaming about slaying a dragon since birth!

Jake catches the blow with his tail.

105 JAKE
Well, keep dreaming! Hah!

Thorn flips forward over the staff, and clocks Jake with a devastating flying kick.

106 THORN/JAKE
Hi-yaaaa!!!!/Arghhh!

Jake goes sailing backwards, CRASHING through the brick wall of a building.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY @ DAY

Trixie and Spud make their way down the deserted alley on their skateboards. Spud holds up the fourteen dollars.

107 SPUD
We could try back alley turtle racing. I hear it can be real lucrative..

108 TRIXIE
Spud, puh-leeze. Don't even come at me with any more schemes. I need paper. Cold, hard cash. And it isn't gonna just drop down out of the sky and--

! Bricks rain down from above. Trixie and Spud skid to a sudden stop as Jake (in dragon form) lands at their feet with a .

109 TRIXIE/SPUD
Ahhhhh!//!

DRAGON JAKE - lays unconscious on the ground.

110 JAKE
TRIXIE AND SPUD - Their jaws drop open.

111 SPUD
Whoahhhh. That's one big lasagna. Maybe I'm dreaming.

112 TRIXIE
O.k. Now, if I didn't just see that with my own two eyes, I wouldn't believe it.

113 SPUD
Or maybe you're dreaming. Hey! What are you doing dreaming about me anyway?

Trixie cautiously pokes the creature with her skateboard.

114 TRIXIE
Is it dead?

Spud twirls his yo-yo down and uses it to lift the dragon's

jaw. A short burst of fire WHOOSHES out of Jake's mouth.

115 SPUD
It's still breathing. Breathing
fire...

! Fire shoots out from under Jake's tail.

116 SPUD (CONT'D)
...Out of both ends.

117 TRIXIE
Breathing and tooting fire? Hold
up.

Trixie reaches into her bag and smooths out the crumpled up flyer. She looks at it and then looks down at the creature. Trixie's fear vanishes. She grabs the dragon's tail.

118 TRIXIE (CONT'D)
Come on. Don't just stand there,
grab the head.

Spud hesitates, then reaches for Trixie's skull.

119 TRIXIE (CONT'D)
Not my head! The dragon's!

Spud nods.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT @ EVENING

Professor Rotwood uses metal clamps to lift an ANCIENT STONE TABLET out of a vat of liquid. His miniature tape recorder sits in front of him.

120 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Scientific log: I will now decipher
the mystical inscription on the
lost Aztec tablet of Monteirubio.
It says--

His doorbell . Someone on the door.

121 TRIXIE (O.S.)
Yo! Open up!

Startled, Professor Rotwood drops the tablet. It
into a million pieces on the table in front of him.

122 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
 (simmering anger)
Ooooooooooooooh!

More as Rotwood moves over to the door. The
Chinese Dragon costume is visible above him.

123 TRIXIE (O.S.)
What's up? You in there, Mister
Rotwood?

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT - EVENING

Trixie and Spud stand before the garage door as Rotwood
flings it open.

124 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Professor! It's Professor Rotwood!
Now what is it? What do you
hoodlums want?

Trixie holds up her crumpled flyer.

125 TRIXIE
We're here to get paid.

126 SPUD
Believe that.

Rotwood throws his hands into the air.

127 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Oh, no. No more hoaxes and con
jobs from you little swindlers. Now
get out of here. Go away.

Trixie shrugs, wheeling out the unconscious Dragon Jake out
into view for the first time. Professor Rotwood's jaw drops.

128 TRIXIE
Oh. O.k., Professor. I guess
we'll just take this genuine dragon
somewhere else. Come on, Spud...

Professor Rotwood leaps in front of them.

129 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Wait! Achtung! Stop! That--That--
That is--It's a--a--a--magical
creature--a dragon!

130 TRIXIE
Well, heck yeah. Isn't that what
you asked for?

131 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD

I--I--I--I--
Spud jerks his thumb at the
unconscious creature.

132 SPUD
That's about as much proof as
you're ever gonna get, buddy. Now
cough up the cashola.

133 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Of course! Of course! I will get
the five hundred dollars
immediately. Wait right here--

134 TRIXIE
Uh-uh. Not so fast. We just
delivered you a whole live dragon,
right to your door. You're going
to have to start talking more bucks
than that.

135 SPUD
Shall we open up the negotiations,
dude?

CUT TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT - DAY

Trixie and Spud head down the street with handfuls of cash.

Rotwood's garage door shut behind them.

136 TRIXIE
Woo-eee! Now that's what I call
getting paid.

137 SPUD
Money smells good.

138 TRIXIE
Come on, Jake's gonna lose his
pudding when he sees this.

CUT TO:

INT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT - DAY

CLOSE ON DRAGON JAKE - still unconscious.

139 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (O.S.)
Wakey, wakey, Mr. Dragon...

A splash of WATER hits Jake in the face. He stirs.

140 JAKE
Huh? Wha--?

PULL OUT to reveal that Jake is in the back of a REINFORCED
CONVERTED ARMORED CAR. Professor Rotwood is wearing a FLAME
RETARDANT BIO-HAZARD SUIT and peers at him through a set of
bars built into the back of the truck.

141 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Scientific log: Success at last. I
have acquired a live magical
creature.

Jake shakes his head, focusing. He glances around the back
of the truck.

142 JAKE
How did I? Profess?--(catching
himself) Uh, I mean...?

Rotwood continues speaking into the tape recorder.

143 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
I have contained the creature in
the back of a specially reinforced
armored car of my own design.

Jake lets out a vicious and throws himself against the
bars and walls of the truck. The truck shakes on its
suspension but holds together. It's no use.

144 JAKE
Rotwood speaks into his recorder.

145 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
The specimen displays super
strength and the ability to fly.
However, the legends of dragons
breathing fire are false and have
no basis in factual evid--Yahhh!

There's a ! as Jake lets fly with a stream of fire
that sails past Rotwood. He hits the deck.

146 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
Uh, strike that last part.

The tape recorder dissolves to ashes in his hand as--
Jake and lets loose with a series of fireballs.
Rotwood dives over his lab table as the papers and objects on
the table are incinerated. A phone begins to RING.

147 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
Argghhhh!!! Enough with the fire.

Rotwood hits a button under the table and--
A GLASS PARTITION - SLAMS down over the bars on the back of
the truck. Jake attempts another blast of fire, but it is
blocked by the glass. The phone keeps RINGING.
Rotwood crawls over to the phone and answers it, not noticing
that the receiver is on fire.

148 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (CONT'D)
What? What do you want?...Yes,
that is correct. Bring all of your
TV cameras. I will be unveiling my
discovery at the press conference
in exactly two hours.(notices
phone)...Yahhh!

Professor Rotwood throws down the phone and uses a FIRE
EXTINGUISHER to put it out.

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - JAKE'S ROOM - DAY

149 TRIXIE (O.S.)
Oh, Jakey...? You home...?

150 SPUD (O.S.)
Where are you, bro'?

Haley opens Jake's door. Trixie and Spud walk inside.

Trixie is using a wad of money to fan herself. She holds out her hand, like a bellman waiting for a tip. Trixie lays a bill into her palm.

151 HALEY
. (after getting money) I'm not usually supposed to let friends into his room unsupervised. He's afraid they might find out about his teddy bear collection and the fact that he sleeps with a night light...every night...since he was two.

Haley holds the bill up to the light and shuts the door, leaving them inside. Trixie plops down on the bed.

152 TRIXIE
Man, where is Jake? We gotta let him know that we're gonna have enough de niro left over to buy some new skateboards and everything!

Spud leans back against Jake's desk.

153 SPUD
Maybe he, like, went and robbed an art museum. Or maybe he went on some reality show to try to win the money...

Spud's butt hits Jake's keyboard. The computer flickers on from sleep mode. The digital photos of Jake as a dragon come up on the screen.

TRIXIE - sees them.

154 SPUD (CONT'D)
...Or maybe he--

155 TRIxie
Shhhhh! Look!

THE SCREEN - PAN OVER the various dragon photos. Some photos capture Jake transforming from dragon into human form.

156 TRIxie (CONT'D)
I don't believe it!

157 SPUD
I don't believe it either. And I don't even know what the heck is going on.

158 TRIxie
The dragon! Jake! How is that possible?

159 SPUD
Wha-? The dragon ate Jake? Man, what a way to go!

Trixie grabs Spud by the front of his shirt.

160 TRIxie
Nah, the dragon didn't eat Jake. Look at this! The dragon is Jake!

She shoves Spud's face into the computer screen.

161 SPUD
I'm even more confused than usual. What does it mean? And how does my Mom's lasagna fit into all this?

162 TRIxie
I'll tell you what it means. It means we just sold out our best friend to Rotwood for cash!

Trixie and Spud stare at each other in disbelief.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - JAKE'S ROOM - DAY

RE-ESTABLISH - Trixie and Spud sit in front of Jake's computer, staring at the photos of Jake as a dragon.

163 TRIXIE
I can't believe we just sold Jake
out to Rotwood like that.

Spud shakes his head.

164 SPUD
Man, we really are greedy and cold
hearted. I, like, hate us.

165 TRIXIE
Come on, we gotta do something!

Trixie yanks Spud out of the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT - DAY

Spud the doorbell. Trixie on the door.

166 TRIXIE/SPUD
Hello? Hello?/Open up!

Rotwood whips open the door, still wearing the Bio-Haz suit.

167 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
What? What is it? Go away!

Trixie holds up the wad of cash.

168 TRIXIE
Listen, Professor. There's been a
bit of a misunderstanding...

169 SPUD
We need our dragon back, pronto.

170 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Your dragon? Oh, I don't think so.
It is now my dragon, isn't it? Now
who sent you? Doctor Van Horn?
Professor Bexley?

171 TRIXIE
Look, no one sent us. We just want
the dragon. We'll give you all
your money back.

172 SPUD
Plus our own six dollars.

173 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
No! I am on my way to a press
conference that will make me the
most respected scientist in the
world. You want a dragon? Here,
take this one...Good day!

Rotwood RIPS the Chinese Dragon parade costume down from
above the door and throws it at Trixie and Spud. The door
SLAMS shut. Trixie looks at the costume's dragon head.

174 TRIXIE
Man, why didn't Jake tell us?

175 SPUD
We all harbor dark secrets.
(spilling his guts) My third toe is
longer than all my other toes.

176 TRIXIE
Keep that one to yourself. Now we
gotta get Jake some kind of help.
Do you think his Mom and Dad know?

177 SPUD
About my toe?

178 TRIXIE
No, not about your to--hold up.
What about Jake's Grandfather? That
whole working at the shop business?

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY

Grandpa reads an ancient scroll. Fu talks on a cell phone as
he glances through the paper.

179 FU DOG
Big Ernie, listen up. I like the
number four Jackelope in the fifth
race...

Trixie and Spud burst into the room, out of breath.

180 FU DOG (CONT'D)
(hushed)
I'll call you back...Woof? Woof?

Fu jams the cell phone into his wrinkles. He adopts a dog
like pose, scratching his ear. Grandpa stands.

181 TRIXIE
Listen, I'm sorry to bust in on you
like this.

182 SPUD
We're friends of Jake.

183 GRANDPA
He is not here.

Trixie holds up the Chinese Dragon Costume head.

184 TRIXIE
Jake. He's a dragon, isn't he?

185 GRANDPA
A dragon? Bah,

the imagination of the young is
like a butterfly in the rain--

Spud steps forward, holding up the photos from Jake's room.

186 SPUD
If Jake's a dragon, that probably
means you're one too...right?

187 GRANDPA

I--I--
Fu Dog stands up, picking up his
newspaper.

188 FU DOG
Drop the act, Gramps. They know.
How ya doin', kids?

Trixie leaps out of her skin.

189 TRIXIE
Ahhh! It's that creepy dog puppet!
And look, it talks! It's talking!

190 FU DOG
Very sharp, sweetheart. Check out
the king-sized brain on this one.

Spud studies Fu Dog. He shrugs.

191 SPUD
After today, nothing will surprise
me ever again.

Grandpa turns to them, very serious.

192 GRANDPA
You must understand. Jake's
identity is a secret. No one can
know what he is...

193 SPUD
That's just the problem, bud.

194 TRIXIE
The whole world is going to find
out what Jake is! And it's our
fault!

CUT TO:

EXT. PROFESSOR ROTWOOD'S LOFT - DAY

THE ARMORED CAR - pulls out of the loft. Rotwood is at the wheel. As the truck turns onto the street, we see Jake peering through a tiny window on the truck's rear doors.

PULL OUT - to reveal Grandpa, Fu Dog, Trixie, and Spud watching from an old-fashioned yellow cab. Trixie and Spud sit in the back. (Seat belts for everyone).

195 FU DOG
Here we go...

FU DOG - sits in the driver seat on a stack of PHONE BOOKS.

He shifts the car into gear and pushes down on the gas with a

block of wood strapped to his foot.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS/HOLLAND TUNNEL Ð DAY

THE ARMORED CAR - takes the exit for the tunnel.

THE TAXI CAB - follows, jumping the curb and driving over a stretch of sidewalk to pull behind the truck.

INT. TAXI CAB - CONTINUOUS

Trixie and Spud hang on as Fu guns the engine, SQUEALING the tires. Trixie glances at Fu and then leans up to Grandpa.

196 TRIXIE
Uh, shouldn't you be the one behind
the wheel?

197 GRANDPA
I don't have a license.

198 TRIXIE
Oh, but the talking dog does?

199 GRANDPA
Well, he has a dog licence.

200 FU DOG
Hey, do you mind? The 'talking
dog' is trying to concentrate over
here...

INT. HOLLAND TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

THE TAXI CAB - pulls up alongside Rotwood's armored car.

INT. TAXI CAB - CONTINUOUS

Trixie and Spud watch, wide-eyed, as Grandpa TRANSFORMS into dragon form. He swirls his front half out the window.

201 GRANDPA
Keep it steady.

INT. HOLLAND TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

THE TWO VEHICLES - cruise side by side. Grandpa swirls around to the rear of the vehicle.

JAKE - appears at the truck's rear window.

202 JAKE
Grandpa!

203 GRANDPA
Hold on.

Grandpa reaches for the latch on the rear doors.

INT. ARMORED CAR - CONTINUOUS

ROTWOOD - glances at his side mirror and sees Dragon Grandpa.

204 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Yahhhh! Another one!

He hits a button on the truck's console.

INT. HOLLAND TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE TRUCK - A tube shoots oil out infront of--

THE TAXI CAB - It hits the oil slick and spins out.

205 FU DOG/TRIXIE/SPUD
Hang on!/Ahhhhh!/Whoahhhhh!

GRANDPA - has a hold of the latch when he SMASHES into the spinning taxi. He TRANSFORMS back into human form.

206 GRANDPA
Ooooof!

WIDE ON THE TUNNEL - several other cars SQUEAL and spin out.

We hear SMASHES. Horns BLAST.

THE TAXI - is now boxed in by other crashed cars. Fu Dog leaps out, helping Grandpa up. They look up to see--

THE ARMORED CAR - cruise away down the tunnel.

FU DOG - leaps onto the top of the taxi. Horns at him. He shouts back!

207 FU DOG
Hey, stick a sock in that horn!
Can't you see we got a situation
here? I oughta--I mean, woof?

TRIXIE AND SPUD - leap out of the taxi, move ahead of the pile up, and flag down a CHECKERED CAB.

INT. CHECKERED CAB - CONTINUOUS

Trixie and Spud pile in, but the CAB DRIVER waves them off.

208 CAB DRIVER
Sorry. Off duty.

Trixie holds up her wad of cash.

209 TRIXIE
This is yours if you can get us to
the Jersey Scientific Institute in
ten minutes.

210 SPUD
That, plus six dollars tip!

211 CAB DRIVER
Buckle up, kids.

Tires as we--

CUT TO:

EXT. JERSEY SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE Ð DAY

Professor Rotwood has the armored truck pulled up in front of the steps of the institute. He speaks to a small group of REPORTERS and TV CAMERAS.

212 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Six years ago, I was fired from
this very institution for my
controversial, yet brilliant,
theories on the existence of
magical creatures...

THE CHECKERED CAB - pulls to a stop behind him. Trixie and Spud exit. They creep up behind Rotwood to--

THE ARMORED CAR - Trixie and Spud pull at a lever on a side door.

213 TRIXIE/SPUD
/It won't budge!

Jake appears in the window on the door.

214 JAKE
Trixie? Spud? Uh, I
mean...(putting on deep voice) I am
a big, scary dragon!

215 TRIXIE
Jake, we know it's you. Now hang
tight, we gonna spring you.

216 JAKE
But I-- There's no way. Rotwood's
got this truck built like a vault.
You guys better just get out of
here.

217 SPUD
No chance, bro.

218 TRIXIE
We here for you, Jakey. Friends
for life and friends for real. Now
here's what we're gonna do...

Trixie and Spud lean up to the small opening. Trixie reaches
into her bag as the three of them huddle and .

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - stands before the small crowd.

219 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
And so, it's time to change the
very course of human history and
science with one startling
revelation...

He moves to the back of the truck.

THE TAXI CAB - SQUEALS to a stop at the curb. Grandpa and Fu
Dog race out and stop.

220 FU DOG
Aw, we're too late!

PROFESSOR ROTWOOD - pulls the latch on the rear door.

221 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Behold...the dragon!

Rotwood dramatically swings open the door.

The reporters and TV cameras lean forward to see--

JAKE - in human form, wearing the Chinese Dragon Costume from Rotwood's loft. He takes off the costume's head and gives a casual wave.

222 JAKE
Hey, Professor Rotwood, can I take this thing off yet? (to the crowd)
Hey, what's crackilating, y'all?

Rotwood's jaw drops. He looks frantically in the truck.

223 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
You! But...but...what have you done with my dragon? (to his audience) Listen to me, there was a real dragon in the back of this truck. A nice red one! It's true!

224 CROWD
The crowd begins to pack up and leave.

225 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Wait! Come back! There is a misunderstanding! This boy is just one of my wretched students!

Police Officers #1 and #2 (from the opening) step forward.

226 POLICE OFFICER #1
That's one of your students? You mind explaining why you have him locked up in the back of a truck?

227 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
Well, I--I--uh...

228 POLICE OFFICER #2
I think you better come with us.

They drag Rotwood towards their patrol car.

229 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
(mad ranting)
No! Wait! There was a dragon! A
dragon, I tell you! A dragon! I
am a top scientist! A genius!

230 POLICE OFFICER #1
No problem, mac. I'll call ahead
just to make sure all our 'genius'
cells aren't booked.

Jake hops out of the truck, bumping fists with Trixie and
Spud. Grandpa and Fu Dog join them.

231 JAKE
Thanks, guys.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP & BACK ROOM - DAY

The Chinese Dragon costume now hangs over the door. PAN DOWN
to Fu Dog, who is tossing ingredients into a SMOKING TEST
TUBE.

232 FU DOG
Some phoenix feather...ba-boom! A
little venus flytrap root...ba
bing! And presto, one mind erase
potion...(shudders) There's been
many a morning I coulda used a few
of these...

He caps the test tube and hands it off to Jake, who sits with
Grandpa.

233 JAKE
So what, I just pour this into
Trixie and Spud's drink?

234 GRANDPA
It will make them forget everything
magical they have seen.

235 JAKE
But they're my friends...

Grandpa puts a hand on Jake's shoulder.

236 GRANDPA
I know. But there are rules. The
World Dragon Council would never
allow them to know.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

Jake holds the test tube as he skates down the street.

237 LEPRECHAUN MCBREEN (O.S.)
Laddie...

Jake skids to a stop. He glances down a dark alley.

Leprechaun McBreen steps out of the shadows with the
mechanical Lady Leprechaun decoy on his arm. Jake adopts a
fighting pose.

238 JAKE
What? Is it the Huntsman? Thorn?
Where? Where are they?

239 LEPRECHAUN MCBREEN
Keep your knickers on, laddie. I
just never got a chance to thank
you is all...

McBreen reaches into his pot of gold and tosses A SINGLE GOLD
COIN to--

JAKE - who snatches it out of the air.

MATCH DISSOLVE

TO:

INT. UPSCALE ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

The Antique Dealer holds up the coin. In the b.g., Jake
walks out of the shop with a bag.

CUT TO:

INT. TRIXIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

THE SITTON VASE - sits on the mantle. PULL OUT to reveal
Trixie, Spud, and Jake. Trixie and Spud sip CANS OF SODA.

240 TRIXIE
I don't know how you did it, Jakey.

241 JAKE
It was nothing. I used a piece of
gold from this Leprechaun
and...well, it's a long story.

A pause.

242 TRIXIE
Listen, Jake. Spud and I want you
to know something. This whole
magic thing...Look, we don't care
if you're a dragon, a troll, a
unicorn...

243 SPUD
...or even my Mom's lasagna...

244 TRIXIE
...Point is, we're friends for life
and friends for real. No matter
what.

245 SPUD
What she said. Totally.

Jake is touched. There is a moment of awkward silence that
is broken by--

246 TRIXIE'S GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Trixie? What you doin', girl? You
hungry in there? You want
something to eat?

247 TRIXIE
No thanks, Grandma! (to Jake and
Spud) Come on, let's play.

Trixie and Spud place their cans on the coffee table and grab
VIDEO GAME CONTROLLERS, taking seats in front of the T.V.
Jake uncaps the test tube. He moves over towards the coffee
table.

248 TRIXIE (CONT'D)
 (without looking)
 Jake, what's up? You with us?

PUSH IN ON JAKE - He holds the test tube, hesitating.
HIS HAND - moves over their drinks. But it keeps going,
moving over the POTTED PLANT. He dumps the contents into the
plant with a quiet .

249 JAKE
 I'm with you. Most definitely.

He hops over the coffee table and grabs a controller.

250 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD (V.O.)
 Scientific log...

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON JAKE'S DIGITAL DRAGON PHOTOS - LATE NIGHT
They've been taped together and taped onto the wall. We PAN
OVER them until we are close on Rotwood, talking into his
tape recorder.

251 PROFESSOR ROTWOOD
 ...Begin working on a new theory
 concerning a Dragon's natural
 ability to shape shift into human
 form. Also, keep a close eye on
 Mister Jake Long.

WIDER - to reveal that Rotwood is sitting in a jail cell. He
CLICKS the recorder off as we--

END SHOW